

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Beech Grove  
other names/site number Allison, Thomas, Farm

### 2. Location

street & number 8423 Old Harding Pike ☐ N/A not for publication  
city or town Nashville ☒ vicinity  
state Tennessee code TN county Davidson code 037 zip code 37221

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.  
☐ See continuation sheet

- ☐ determined eligible for the  
National Register.  
☐ See continuation sheet

- ☐ determined not eligible for the  
National Register

- ☐ removed from the National  
Register.

- ☐ other, (explain):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**Beech Grove**

Name of Property

**Davidson County, Tennessee**

County and State

**5. Classification****Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)  
☒ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
6	1	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
7	1	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Historic Family Farms of Middle Tennessee, 1780-1960 MPS

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use****Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single dwelling; secondary structure

AGRICULTURE: animal facility; storage;

agricultural outbuilding; agricultural field

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single dwelling; secondary structure

AGRICULTURE: animal facility; storage

agricultural outbuilding; agricultural field

**7. Description****Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick; Stone; Concrete

walls Weatherboard; Concrete

roof Asphalt Shingle; Metal

other Metal; Glass

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance****Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is: N/A

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Exploration/settlement  
Agriculture

**Period of Significance**

c. 1900 to 1955

**Significant Dates**

NA

**Significant Person**

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Jones, Thomas and Lucas, Caleb, builders

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References****Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):** N/A

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ Previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☒ Local Government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Metro Nashville Historical Commission

**Beech Grove**

Name of Property

**Davidson County, Tennessee**

County and State

**10. Geographical Data**Acreage of Property Approximately 12 acres Kingston Springs 305 SE**UTM References**

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>16</u>	<u>497819</u>	<u>3986432</u>	3	<u>16</u>	<u>498149</u>	<u>3986213</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>16</u>	<u>498179</u>	<u>3986365</u>	4	<u>16</u>	<u>497672</u>	<u>3986229</u>

☐ See continuation sheet**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Carroll Van West  
Organization Center for Historic Preservation date March 28, 2007  
street & number Middle Tennessee State University, Box 80 telephone 615-898-2947  
city or town Murfreesboro state TN zip code 37132

**Additional Documentation**

submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets****Maps**A **USGS map** (7.5 Or 15 minute series) indicating the property's locationA **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.**Photographs**Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Dr. Marek and Mrs. Michelle Kacki  
street & number 8423 Old Harding Pike telephone (615) 646-5152  
city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37221

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Beech Grove  
Davidson County, TN

## 7. DESCRIPTION

Beech Grove is a historic family farm of nearly twelve acres located at 8423 Old Harding Pike in the southwest corner of Davidson County, Tennessee, near the border between Davidson and Williamson counties. The farm is centered on a historic house, known as Beech Grove, which was initially constructed c. 1850 and has had periodic additions and alterations. The farm contains a representative set of historic farm outbuildings from barns to a crib, coop, and well house. It retains its mid-twentieth century field patterns, as agricultural production switched from row crops to livestock and most fields were turned into pastures. The farm today remains focused on livestock production and still retains a strong sense of association, feeling, materials, and setting of a rural Davidson County family farm.

### 1. Beech Grove (c. 1850, 1920, 1990, 2000)

Beech Grove is a weatherboard frame and log two-story, central hall I-house, with brick exterior chimneys and an asphalt shingle gable roof and metal gable roof, that rests on a brick and stone pier foundation. While elements of the earlier Greek Revival style can be seen in the façade entry and a few interior details, the house reflects more of the Colonial Revival style of the 1920s when it was substantially updated.

Its west facade has three symmetrical bays, with four-over-four double-hung wood windows on both stories. These windows, installed c. 2000, replaced c. 1980s metal replacement windows in an effort to more closely resemble the six-over-nine double-hung wood windows that probably dated c. 1920. There is a central entrance with a glass transom. The entrance door dates from c. 1920 and the window shutters date c. 1920. The double leaf glass and wood doors are capped with a multi-light transom, simple entablature, and a denticulated cornice. Fluted pilasters in a Colonial Revival fashion flank the doors. A two-story shed-roof portico, with six square classical posts and a second-story balustrade, was installed c. 1920. The wood porch floor also dates c. 1920. The arrangement of the square posts is somewhat unusual for Tennessee in that two pairs of posts flank the central entrance. Also, it was more common for farmhouses to be updated with a single story porch than the two-story porch found on Beech Grove.

The north elevation has two parts, the western section is a two-story gable-end of the c. 1850 dwelling, with a central brick chimney flanked by four-over-four double-hung windows, installed c. 2000, on both stories. The eastern section contains a projecting one-story den wing, installed c. 1950, which contains a Colonial Revival-styled balustrade on its flat roof and a central entrance on its north elevation, with two Colonial Revival-styled metal light fixtures flanking and defining the entrance. Attached to the den extension is a renovated one and one-half story kitchen wing, which was first installed c. 1900 when the owners moved a schoolhouse to attach to their dwelling. This schoolhouse addition was renovated with a bay window added between c. 1950 and c. 1990.

The east elevation is the rear of the dwelling and is dominated by two additions: the schoolhouse addition of c. 1900 and a two-bay garage that was installed c. 1950. The gable end of the schoolhouse addition has two centered four-over-four double-hung windows and an off-center exterior sandstone chimney that has a decorative metal rectangular-shaped plate installed about halfway up the chimney. Its gable roof has been extended to the west into a shed roof for the two-bay garage. The historic river stone chimney of the gable end of the ell of the original dwelling is also visible on this elevation and the second story contains a symmetrical six-over-six double-hung window.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Beech Grove  
Davidson County, TN

The south elevation retains the original gable end of the I-house and the later changes to the ell of the house. Previous owners had installed aluminum siding over the south wall c. 1980; later owners took off the siding and replaced damaged weatherboard with new wallboard c. 2000. A trio of four-over-four double-hung wood windows, installed c. 2000, with three-light transoms has been installed on the second story of the ell. These window replaced c. 1980s metal windows. French doors have been installed, c. 1990, below on the first floor of the ell. The French doors lead into a wood deck, installed c. 1990. The original gable end of the I-house has a centered exterior brick chimney flanked by four-over-four double-hung wood windows on both the first and second stories.

## First Floor Interior

The dwelling's interior reflects a central hall plan with an ell on the east side of the house that dates c. 1850; the interior also reflects elements of a Colonial Revival-styled interior decorating scheme from c. 1920. Important Colonial Revival elements are the chair rail of the central hall and the north and south parlors, the fireboxes found in the north and south parlors and the cornices found in the central hall as well as the parlors of the first floor.

The center hall retains its original wide plank oak wood floors and wide plank poplar ceiling from c. 1850, and the entrance door and sidelights that were installed c. 1920. The north parlor retains its original plain wood mantel, original poplar floors, and poplar ceiling from c.1850. The room has a strong sense of association, feeling, and workmanship as it has experienced few changes, except for the installation of electricity, from the nineteenth century. The south parlor also retains its defining elements from the nineteenth century, including poplar floors and ceiling, original chair rail and dentil molding, and mantel from c. 1850 as well as a box staircase, with stair rail, dating c. 1850.

In the first floor of the original ell of the dwelling, another box staircase in the southeast corner, c. 1850, with a c. 1920 stair rail, is intact, and is a very interesting feature of the original interior plan, signifying that the house did not have a central staircase. Otherwise this first floor room has experienced c. 1900 changes: the mantel has been replaced and is flanked by wood built-in bookcases.

Original double wood doors with transom lead from the central hall into the present den of the house, a space that was renovated and installed c. 1950. This low-ceiling room has a brick floor, brick mantel and fireplace, and a small bathroom installed into its northeast corner.

A narrow, open hallway leads into the renovated kitchen wing. The owners attached a nineteenth century schoolhouse to the rear of the dwelling c. 1900. Circa 1990, owners renovated this space completely, installing modern kitchen equipment, a bay window, and adding exposed log beams to create a neo-Arts and Crafts styled interior to the kitchen and accompanying breakfast nook.

A door from the kitchen leads directly into the c. 1950 two-car garage.

## Second Floor Interior

The central hall plan of the first floor is largely intact on the second floor, although closets and a bath have been installed in the hall space, c. 1990. Both bedrooms flanking the hall retain most of their historic features from c. 1850 in the wide plank poplar wood floors, ceilings, and mantels. The ceilings on the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Beech Grove  
Davidson County, TN

second floor had been covered or replaced c. 1980s. Around 2000, the current owners removed the c. 1980s ceiling, exposing the beaded board ceiling of the west bedroom and the original log beams in the hall and east bedroom where the beaded board no longer remained.

The master bedroom in the ell also retains significant historic elements such as wide plank wood floors and doors from c. 1850. The c. 1980s low ceiling has been removed, c. 2000, exposing original log beams and the mantel has been removed, c. 1980s, exposing the river stone of the chimney.

A modern bathroom, c. 1990, also has been installed adjacent to the master bedroom.

The Beech Grove dwelling has experienced a renovation in the last ten years. Circa 2000, the current owners made modifications, but only replaced non-historic materials dating from c. 1980 - c. 1990 and attempted to match the original materials where possible. Although some of the exterior siding was replaced c. 2000, this siding replaced the deteriorated wood siding that had been covered with metal siding in the 1980s. Once the historic fabric of the main block of house is considered, the various modern additions are not so intrusive. The facade of the dwelling still loudly proclaims the farmstead look that evolved from c. 1850 to c. 1920 and the amount of historic interior material still remaining in the dwelling conveys well the house's sense of association, feeling, design, craftsmanship, and history. (C)

## 2. Well House (c. 1950)

Located to the northwest of the dwelling (the property's "front yard"), the well house is a square concrete block building with a metal gable roof and a central wood entrance door on its south facade. (C)

## 3. Garage and chicken coop (c. 1920)

Located to the south of the dwelling, and separating the domestic complex from the work areas and fields of the farm, is this combination garage and chicken coop. It is a board-and-batten box-construction building with a metal gable roof, and a double wood garage door and two fixed nine-light windows. (C)

## 4. Horse barn (c. 1990)

Rectangular vertical board gable-front horse pole-barn with metal gable roof and concrete foundation. (NC, due to date of construction).

## 5. Corn crib (c. 1920)

Rectangular, wood-slat wall, metal gable roof corn crib, with a gable front entrance and a stone pier foundation. This well-ventilated structure was designed for the drying of corn. (C)

## 6. Stock Barn (c. 1900)

This log and frame barn, with a central aisle flanked by horse stalls and sheds for storage, has a stone pier foundation, a metal gable roof, and a prominent second story hay loft. Two shed extensions, supported by wood posts, are on the north and south sides of the building; these additions were made c. 1950. (C)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

Beech Grove  
Davidson County, TN

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7. Storage shed (c. 1955)

Located at the farm's northeast corner is this rectangular-shaped, gable front board and batten shed, which has a metal gable roof and a concrete foundation. (C)

8. Field patterns (c. 1940)

Although just twelve acres of the farm remain intact, the property's early twentieth century patterns of pastures, the domestic complex, and woods are defined by rows of mature trees, historic fence lines, and well-maintained fields. Due to the paucity of extant historic family farmsteads in Davidson County, this surviving pattern of fields, fences, and buildings is a good representation of what was once a common agricultural landscape in Davidson County. The patterns of the agricultural fields are a contributing site to the nomination. (C)

Beech Grove is a rare Nashville example of a historic family farm that evolved from its antebellum roots to a modernized mid-twentieth century farm. With its historic acreage, landscaping, and historic outbuildings, the farm conveys a strong sense of time and place. It retains integrity and meets the registration requirements for historic family farms outlined in the Historic Family Farms of Middle Tennessee, 1780 to 1960 MPS.

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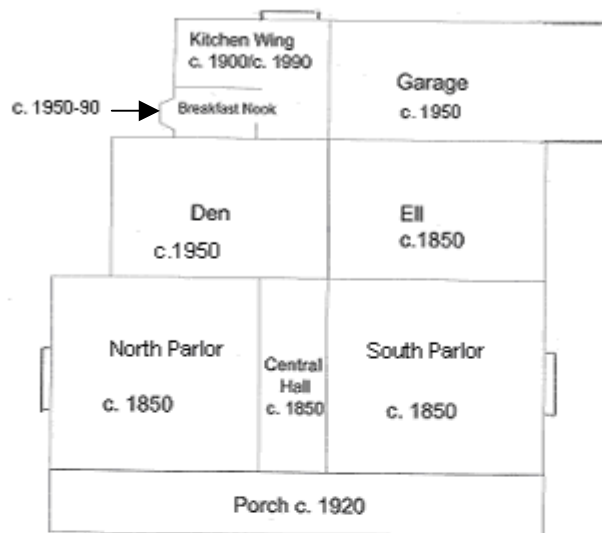
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

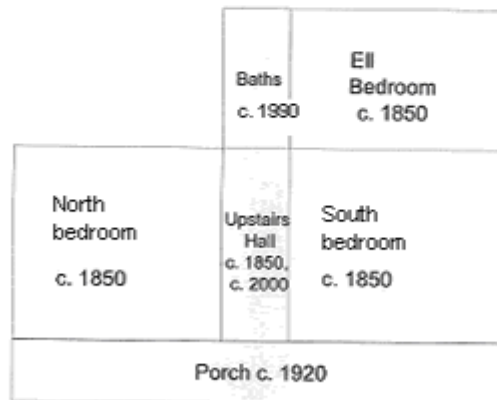
Beech Grove  
Davidson County, TN

Floor plan Not to scale N ←

Beech Grove  
Davidson County, Tennessee



First Floor Plan



Second Floor Plan

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

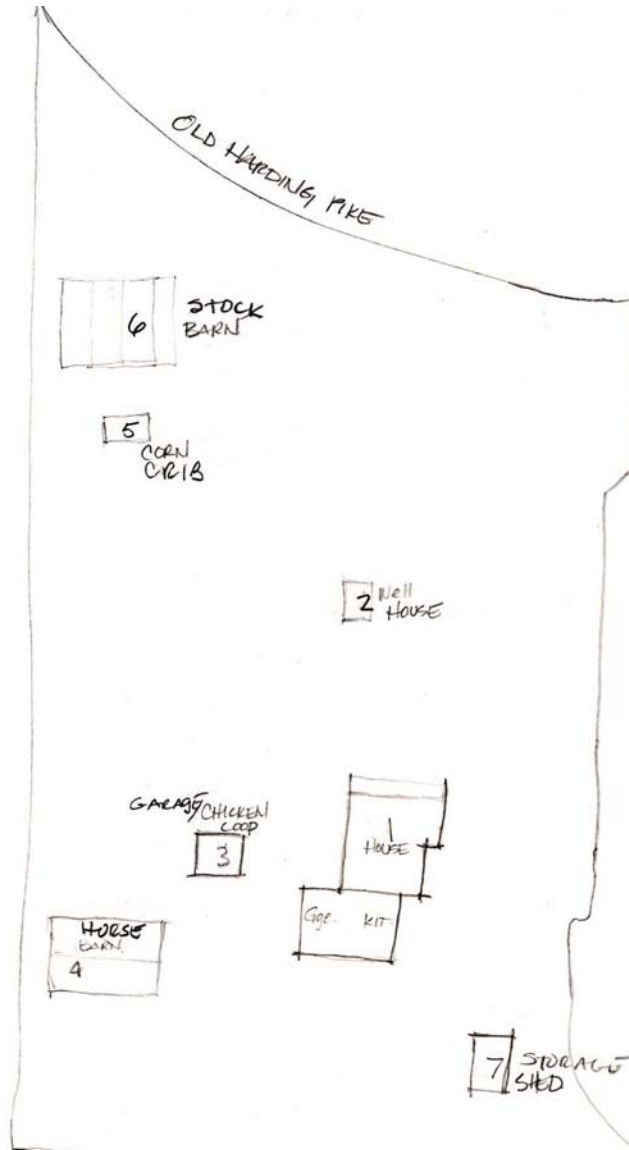
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

Beech Grove  
Davidson County, TN

Site plan

Not to scale



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 7  
Beech Grove  
Davidson County, TN**8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Beech Grove at 8423 Old Harding Pike in Davidson County, Tennessee, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its local significance in agriculture and the exploration/settlement of Davidson County. The farmhouse and associated outbuildings, constructed between c. 1850 and 1955, reflect the patterns of change representative in historic family farms of Middle Tennessee during those years. The farm's evolution documents how rural life changed from the late nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century and reflects the changes in farming practices and settlement patterns then taking place in Davidson County. These changes are reflected in the changes to the house, the outbuildings, and the landscape. The nominated property meets the registration requirements for historic family farms outlined in the Historic Family Farms of Middle Tennessee, 1780-1960 MPS.

**Historical Background**

Beech Grove is one of the nineteenth century Davidson County farms recorded in *A Past Remembered: A Collection of Antebellum Houses in Davidson County* (1987) by Paul Clements. Hugh Allison established the property in 1801 when he acquired 200 acres from Elisha Sherrill for \$1.75 per acre. Allison, born in Pennsylvania in 1767, was a recent Tennessee resident who married Lydia Harrison in 1797. When Allison purchased the property in 1801, he was looking for a location to establish his farm and provide for his growing family, which eventually reached five children. Also, in that first decade of the nineteenth century, James and Alexander Allison, who historian Paul Clements believes to be Hugh Allison's brothers, acquired land nearby the 200 acres of Hugh Allison.<sup>1</sup>

Hugh Allison was recognized as one of the first, and among the leading, citizens of the South Harpeth area of Davidson County. In 1810, he became a member of the Davidson County Court, and his property became a polling place on election day. Allison also was gaining in wealth, owning ten slaves according to the 1820 census, and his enslaved workers not only worked the fields but also operated a saw and gristmill for Allison.<sup>2</sup>

Lydia Harrison Allison died in 1834; Hugh Allison died in 1835. Their youngest son, Thomas Jefferson Allison, born in 1808, inherited the property; he was 27 years old. In 1837, he married Tabitha Newsom. Like his namesake, and his father, Thomas Jefferson Allison was an active member of the Democratic Party in an era when the Democrats of Davidson County wielded power not only locally but also across the state and the nation. A late nineteenth century history of Davidson County recalled that Allison "was one of the first Van Buren men in the county." He also served as delegate to the 1843 State Democratic Convention.<sup>3</sup> Allison significantly expanded the farm during the 1840s and 1850s. According to federal census data from 1850, Allison's farm had become a plantation: 1,150 acres. He operated gristmills and a store, and owned a blacksmith shop. His family of eight—his wife Tabitha and six children—also owned 22 slaves, placing

<sup>1</sup> Paul Clements, *A Past Remembered: A Collection of Antebellum Houses in Davidson County* (Nashville: Clearview, 1987), 4.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.; Davidson County Will Book 10:548; W. W. Clayton, *History of Davidson County, Tennessee* (Philadelphia: J.W. Lewis & Co., 1880), p. 72; Nashville *Union*, November 9, 1843.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 8 Beech Grove  
Davidson County, TN

them into the planter class of Middle Tennessee slave owners, as defined by Frank Owsley in his study *Plain Folk of the Old South* (1949).<sup>4</sup>

The present two-story log and frame I-house dwelling is dated c. 1850. Local carpenters, Thomas Jones and Caleb Lucas, are believed to be the property's builders. The family named the estate "Beech Grove" after a clump of trees surrounding the house. Certainly the decade was a prosperous one for Thomas Allison: judging by the amount of slaves the family owned, the Allisons doubled their wealth, from owning 22 slaves in 1850 to 43 slaves in 1860.<sup>5</sup>

The Civil War and Reconstruction brought significant change to Beech Grove. Located on the railroad line, the rails brought troops and foragers, and provided a way for half of the slaves to escape to freedom. A revealing document from the Freedmen's Bureau sheds light on the condition of the farm at war's end. On September 27, 1865, Ned Pagette, a Freedmen's Bureau agent, spent the night at Beech Grove. Two days later he reported about his stay and his conversation with Thomas J. Allison to his superiors:

Mr. Thomas Allisson [sic] with whom I stayed all night of the 27<sup>th</sup> inst. has 20 Blacks on his plantation—700 acres fine land—and of the 20, there are 3—women—who are able to work. Mr. Allisson is quite an aged man [ac: yet he was only 57 years old], in embarrassed circumstances, has always born the name of a kind Master, and soon now is willing to do all in his power for these helpless people who remain with him. He says: 'I cannot find it in my heart to say to these old people 'You must go' and yet it will come to that for I can hardly support my own family (A large family of daughters) had my able bodied people remained with me I might possibly have been able to pay them for their labor and support the infirm too.' He said this in ignorance of the fact that I am connected with the Bureau but supposing me to be a County officer.<sup>6</sup>

Emancipation proved to be a difficult adjustment for many planters as the region's settlement patterns and agricultural practices were changed forever. For the remainder of the nineteenth century, until his death in 1897, Thomas Jefferson Allison remained the master, and his wife Tabitha (who lived until 1910) the mistress, of Beech Grove. Some former slaves remained on the land as tenant farmers. They made one major change to the dwelling, pulling up an old one-room schoolhouse and turning it into a rear wing of the dwelling. They also continued to sell land. The plantation soon became a middle-class farm of a few hundred acres, worked by the families and tenants.<sup>7</sup>

After the death of her grandmother in 1910, Allie Morton and her husband Sam Morton inherited the farm and brought it into the twentieth century. The Mortons operated the farm for the next 50 years (Allie Morton died in 1964) and they transformed it from a cotton and grain operation into a livestock farm, like many other farm families of the mid-twentieth century in Tennessee. Their South Harpeth lands were rich—they never felt the need or pursued the adoption of such "progressive" agricultural products as burley tobacco or the dairy industry. The "Historic Family Farms of Middle Tennessee" Multiple Property Submission points out the significance of this agricultural pattern: "The new emphasis on livestock kept corn production at

<sup>4</sup> Clements, p. 4; Frank L. Owsley, *Plain Folk of the Old South* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1949).

<sup>5</sup> Clements, pp. 4 and 6.

<sup>6</sup> Henry L. Swint, "Reports from Educational Agents of the Freedmen's Bureau in Tennessee, 1865-1870," *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* 1(1942): 55.

<sup>7</sup> Clements, p. 6.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9 Beech Grove  
Davidson County, TN

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relatively high levels, produced both as a basic item for the dinner table and for the consumption of the livestock. New types of grass and hay, alfalfa and lespedeza in particular, were pushed by the agricultural experts as additional foodstuffs for livestock.”<sup>8</sup>

The present day pattern of the fields belong to the Morton’s period and they also added the well house, the combination chicken coop and garage, as well as the corn crib (good for feeding livestock) to the outbuildings of the farm.

The Mortons also made substantial changes to the house, adding the Colonial Revival-styled portico, Craftsman-styled interior features, and electricity c. 1920. The “Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee” Multiple Property Submission concludes, “The Colonial Revival style, however, was very popular with agricultural reformers, especially when used to update more traditional folk homes, both in the exteriors and particularly the interiors.”<sup>9</sup> The addition of the Colonial Revival details to Beech Grove is an excellent example of that architectural trend.

In general, the farm’s twentieth century developments reflect well the significant agricultural patterns documented for the region in the “Historic Family Farms of Middle Tennessee” Multiple Property Submission: “During 1920 and 1940, many farm families ‘modernized’ their traditional-styled farm houses, or built new homes in such ‘modern’ styles as the bungalow or American Four-Square, in response to this major theme in the progressive farm movement. This improvement in the domestic environment, which would produce a grouping of buildings potentially eligible as well as a historic district with architectural significance, would also be significantly associated, as a historic district, with this reform movement of ‘Better Homes, Better Farms’ in agriculture.”<sup>10</sup> They also turned to livestock as the dominant farm product.

The Allison heirs continued to own and farm the property until the Mortons’ daughter Sallie Morton sold the property out of the family in 1975. Subsequent owners sold most of the additional acreage until 12 acres of the original farm, containing all of the extant historic outbuildings, were sold to the Kacki family in June 1993.

Thus, the transformation of the property known as Beech Grove from the early 1800s to the middle decades of the twentieth century is a locally significant representative of the patterns of change experienced by family farmers in Davidson County. Farms got smaller; they switched from a reliance on farm labor (slave and tenant) and row crops to livestock and much smaller work forces. Farmhouses also were steadily modernized, as I-houses received both exterior and interior updates in the early twentieth century and as electricity and indoor plumbing were introduced into the homes as part of the “Better Homes, Better Farms” movement of the 1920s. The Colonial Revival styling given to the front of the house was especially popular with agricultural reformers trying to get farm families to move their homes and operations in the modern

<sup>8</sup> Carroll Van West, “Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee” National Register Multiple Property Submission, p. E-25.

<sup>9</sup> Carroll Van West, “Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee” National Register Multiple Property Submission, p. E-33.

<sup>10</sup> Carroll Van West, “Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee” National Register Multiple Property Submission, p. E-31.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 10 Beech Grove  
Davidson County, TN

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era.<sup>11</sup> The present adaptive reuse and preservation of the buildings and structures of Beech Grove preserve an important piece of Davidson County's rural history, especially considering the paucity of extant historic family farms in the largely urban and suburban county. The nominated property meets the three most important characteristics of a historic family farm, as defined by the multiple property nomination: "the nominated farm complex usually should contain a historic dwelling; outbuildings that are associated with the dwelling and/or associated with a significant agricultural period in the history of the farm; and historic fields that are associated with a significant period of agricultural production in the history of the farm."<sup>12</sup>

<sup>11</sup> Don L. Winters, "Agriculture," *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*, Carroll V. West, et al, eds., (Nashville: Tennessee Historical Society, 1998), pp. 10-12; Mary S. Hoffschwelle, *Rebuilding the Rural Southern Community: Reformers, Schools, and Homes in Tennessee, 1900-1930* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1998), 104-126.

<sup>12</sup> Carroll Van West, "Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee" National Register nomination, p. F-41.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 11

Beech Grove  
Davidson County, TN

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## 9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

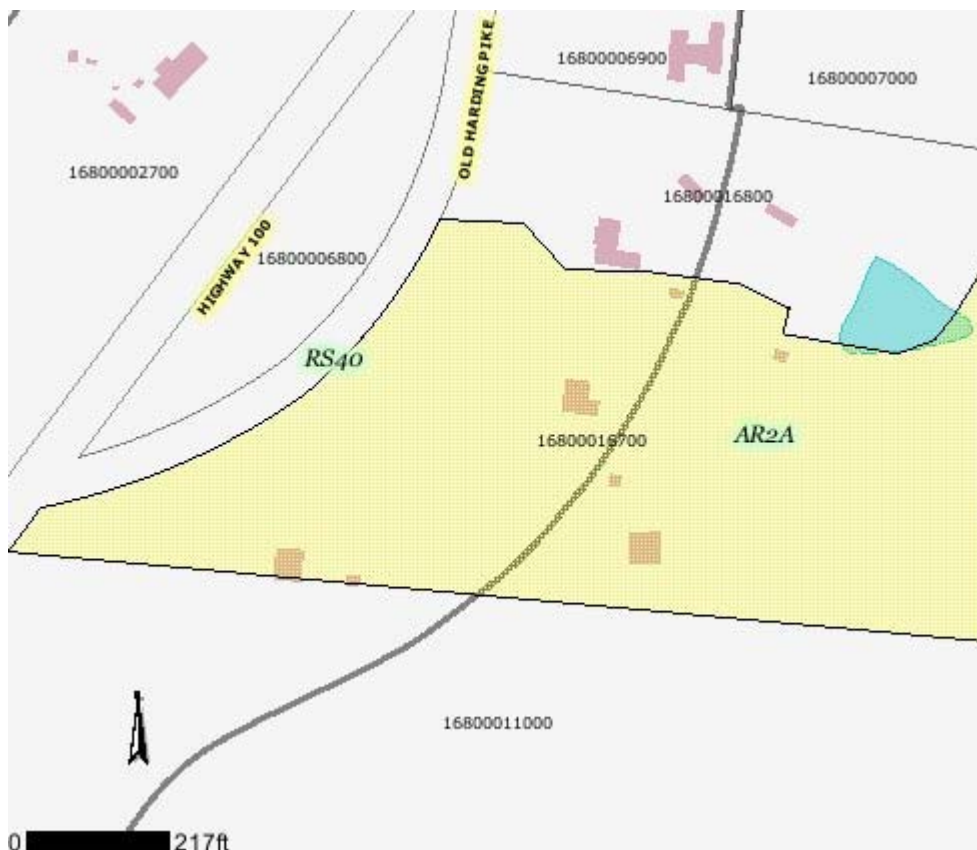
Section number 10 Page 12

Beech Grove  
Davidson County, TN

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

### Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

Beech Grove is at 8423 Old Harding Pike in Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee. Its 11.91 acres is marked as parcel 167 on the attached Davidson County Tax Map. The nominated boundaries contain all of the historic acreage that is significantly associated with the settlement history of the property.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number photos Page 13 Beech Grove  
Davidson County, TN

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## PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographer: Dr. Carroll Van West  
Middle Tennessee State University, Center for Historic Preservation  
Murfreesboro, TN 37132  
Date: November 2006  
Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission  
2941 Lebanon Rd.  
Nashville, TN 37243-0442

1/48 West facade and north elevation, facing southeast

2/48 West facade, central entrance

3/48 West facade, second story porch,

4/48 North elevation, chimney, facing south

5/48 North elevation, with den addition, facing south

6/48 North elevation, with den addition, facing west

7/48 East elevation, facing west

8/48 East and south elevations, facing west

9/48 South elevation and west façade, facing north

10/48 South elevation detail, facing north

11/48 South elevation detail, facing north

12/48 Detail of stone pier foundation

13/48 Central hall, first floor, facing west

14/48 Central hall, first floor, facing east

15/48 Beaded board ceiling, first floor, central hall

16/48 North parlor, first floor, facing north

17/48 North parlor mantel, facing north

18/48 Staircase, first floor parlor

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number photos Page 14 Beech Grove  
Davidson County, TN

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- 19/48 Staircase, first floor parlor
- 20/48 Mantel, south parlor
- 21/48 Den, first floor, facing
- 22/48 Den/passageway, first floor
- 23/47 Den first floor, facing east to kitchen wing
- 24/47 Breakfast nook, first floor, facing north
- 25/48 Kitchen wing, first floor, facing northeast
- 26/48 Kitchen wing, first floor, facing northeast
- 27/48 Kitchen wing, first floor, ceiling detail
- 28/48 Kitchen wing, first floor
- 29/48 Ell, first floor, facing east
- 30/48 Ell, first floor, box stair
- 31/48 Ell, first floor, door under stair
- 32/48 Central hall, second floor, facing east
- 33/48 North bedroom, second floor, facing southeast
- 34/48 North bedroom, second floor, facing northwest
- 35/48 South bedroom, second floor, facing southeast
- 36/48 Ell bedroom, second floor, facing east
- 37/48 Bathrooms, second floor
- 38/48 Well house
- 39/48 Garage and chicken coop
- 40/48 Horse barn
- 41/48 Corn crib and stock barn

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number photos Page 15

Beech Grove  
Davidson County, TN

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42/48 Stock barn

43/48 Corn crib

44/48 Stock barn

45/48 Stock barn, interior detail

46/48 Storage shed

47/48 Overview of house and setting

48/48 Setting